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Although it has been apparent for months that the collectivization of agriculture in Bulgaria has been more intensive than in the other satellites, things are not as rosy, according to Moscow standards, as enthusiastic statistical reports would seem to indicate. For what other reason would the party and the government have had to resort to drastic measures to accelerate the sovietization of agriculture? Either the Moscow planning authorities regard the collectivization of 60 percent of the Bulgarian agriculture as inadequate, or the fulfillment of the Five-Year Plan has been impeded by bottlenecks which are highly embarrassing to the Soviet advisers who have overrun Bulgaria.

The latter version seems more probable, for Bulgaria, too, was hard hit by last year's drought and the farmers offered obstinate resistance to the state's ruthless collection of grain. Their resistance went so far that the Central Committee found it necessary to punish a number of functionaries, among them members of the Central Committee, for this situation and to recommend that they apply strong measures against insubordination.

The regional committees seem to have carried out these recommendations so thoroughly that party chief Chervenkov, the Minister-President, recently found it necessary to relieve the Kula Regional Committee of its functions, although he had praised it several months earlier for its outstanding work in grain collection. As justification for this punitive measure it was stated that the committee had used bureaucratic and inhuman measures against the farmers, thereby violating Communist principles. Observers familiar with Communist terminology interpret this as meaning that the party bigwigs in Kula apparently went too far in imposing their despotic measures and thereby created restlessness and dissatisfaction among the farmers.

Actually, refugees report that the pressure exerted in Bulgarian rural regions is becoming increasingly unbearable. According to these accounts, entire villages were surrounded by the Communist militia, who carried out numerous arrests and deportations. In Kula, the local jail was not large enough for the number of prisoners taken, and a schoolhouse had to be converted into

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an auxiliary jail. Numerous farmers who took Chervenkov's attack on the committee too literally and who wanted to get out of the compulsory collectives were brought to reason with threats of arrest and deportation to Siberia. The situation is bound to become even more acute, for it has been announced that extensive police action will be taken against the insubordinate farmers within the next few weeks.

Apparently, in order not to increase the indignation of the hungry populace, the majority of the extensive grain and ore shipments to the USSR are carried out at night. The mining of mineral raw materials is being expedited, since ore production amounted to only 31.4 percent of the planned 12-month quota during the first three quarters of 1950, while the plan for metallurgy was fulfilled only 42.5 percent during the same period. The Danube tugs plying toward the Black Sea loaded with grain are not the people's only reminder of the complete subjugation of their economy to foreign dictates. Nearly all of Bulgaria's entire output of tobacco and attar of roses, two of its most important export products, is being brought up by the USSR and sold to foreign countries at a handsome profit. The farmers' resistance which, despite all despotic measures, has not yet been entirely subdued, the restlessness increased by military measures, and the embittered agitation carried on by both Bulgaria and Yugoslavia are symptomatic of the fact that Bulgaria is a long way from filling the role of an exemplary satellite state.

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